

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-19 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1, the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a device including a data processing device coupled to the imaging device, the data processing device is designed to omit from use in a reconstruction those projection pictures (P_{i-1} , P_i , P_{i+1}) having projection lines (l_{i-1} , l_i , l_{i+1}) of a characteristic object feature that do not intersect approximately at a common spatial point r_0 , when taken in combination with the other limitations of each respective claim. Claims 2-7 and 11-14 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

With respect to claim 8, the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a method including omitting from a reconstruction those projection pictures (P_j , P_k , P_l) having projection lines (l_j , l_k , l_l) of a characteristic object feature that do not intersect at approximately a same spatial point r_0 , when taken in combination with the other limitations of each respective claim. Claims 9-10 and 15 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

With respect to claim 16, the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a system including a processor programmed with code segments adapted to use at least some of projection pictures having projection lines extending through an object feature to generate a three-dimensional image of the object, omitting from use in the image generation those projection

pictures having projection lines that do not intersect the object feature, when taken in combination with the other limitations of each respective claim. Claims 17-19 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN M. CORBETT whose telephone number is (571)272-8284. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. M. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 2882

/Edward J Glick/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2882